

# SIGNS OF A RETURN TO THE HOUR GLASS WAIST OF 1880

This in Spite of Fact That Corset Lines Now in Fashion Are Graceful and Comfortable

By CLAUDE CHERYS.

THE Paris season is at its height. Already the leading dressmakers are turning their thoughts toward the requirements of the Grand Prix and even of the Trouville-Deauville season.

In the world of dress nothing is permitted to stand still, not even a charming and absolutely satisfactory "line." It is the age of the quick change artist. Women who believe themselves to be in the movement do not dare to pause lest some one should say of them, "Poor, old fashioned dears!" So far as feminine affairs are concerned, the present period may be said to be one of reckless stupidity.

"Change, change and yet again change!" may be taken as the war cry of smart women, and it is a cry which has been put into their lips by unscrupulous and unintelligent dressmakers. It is not the really great dress artists who advocate this system of change at all costs. The real artists in gowns are walking hand in hand with the great artists in oils and water colors, and are ceaselessly imploring women to realize that they ought to regard dress as a frame for their beauty and that it is necessary to guard against frames which are merely eccentric if not ridiculous.

Worth has set forth this sentiment again and again. So has Mme. Paquin, and so have many other genuine artists in clothes. But in this age of mad rush the majority of women have not time to listen to such words. They rush to and fro calling aloud for change and yet again change. It is a thousand pities.

My present protest is against those blind and foolish persons who seem bent on bringing about a change of "line" where corsets are concerned. Now it is certain that at the present moment fashion has provided an ideal corset—graceful, natural, comfortable and beautiful. The straight fronted corset of today gives a classic outline to the most ordinary form, and it is equally successful in connection with day and evening gowns.

By slow degrees fashions have arrived at a stage when small waists represent everything that is in bad taste, when the hour glass waist of twenty years ago would be openly ridiculed. But are the fashions going to stand still to enable women to enjoy a perfect moment? I fear not. Already there are disconcerting indications of a complete change of "line." Already the dressmakers who live by constant, often meaningless, changes of fashion are putting forth models which will sooner or later bring the pinched waist back into fashion.

For example, the 1880 style of dress consists of a close fitting jersey bodice, a pleated skirt and a Fatima sash circling the hips. In the year 1880 this style of dress was universally worn, and doubtless it was very becoming to the women of that period. But it must be remembered that in 1880 straight fronted corsets were hardly known and that 19 inch waists were considered the only possible.

I have before me as I write an old photograph of the famous English dancer, Kate Vaughan. She was at the height of her success in 1880 and in the picture she is wearing a skin tight bodice, laced at the back, which extends well over the hips and is finished off with a deep skirt and a satin sash, the latter being drawn round the hips and tied low down at one side. The famous dancer was extraordinarily slight in figure; I imagine that at that time her waist could not have measured more than seventeen inches at most. Her bones were small and she was very graceful as well as pretty. I have been told, on good authority, that it was Kate Vaughan who first launched the style of dress I have just described, and I can easily believe that this may be true, for it was eminently becoming to her.

But what are we going to do with this 1880 style of dress in this year of grace, when a 28 inch waist is considered small and when no woman of fashion is ashamed of confessing to a 32 inch belt? It is a preposterous idea, but it is one which will have to be faced, for without doubt the fashions of 1880 and 1882 are becoming very popular. They are being pushed by certain dressmakers who are opposed to the methods recommended by Worth, Mme. Paquin and others, and they are being pushed to some purpose.

Already I have seen several important model costumes in which skin tight bodices made of silk jersey cloth played an important role; and this is only the beginning of the end. Women will quickly find that jersey bodices look absurd when worn over natural corsets and little by little the process of tight lacing will begin again. Unless a firm stand is made women will find themselves with 19 inch waists again before the year is out.

I have been amused to see that in some of the London newspapers they are giving the polite name of "karter-petticoats" to the new lace pantaloons which have recently been introduced into the world of fashion in Paris. "Karter-petticoats" sounds quite simple and correct, much less eccentric than the garment it describes.

This is a very quaint fashion, but it is one which has already become popular in smart circles. The new lace pantaloons are a modified edition of the voluminous trousers made of flimsy material worn by Turkish women. Some months ago this curious fashion first appeared; but then it was almost exclusively applied to evening costumes. Now, however, the long pantaloons made of



A BEAUTIFUL MODEL FOR AFTERNOON WEAR. One of the new flounced dresses in navy blue taffetas and petunia gauze printed with blue roses.

fine lace and chiffon are worn in conjunction with visiting dresses and even, in some extreme cases, with tailored suits.

These strange garments are banded in at the ankles and it is considered chic to have them distinctly visible under the hem of a tight skirt. Since I have already done a good deal of fault finding in this article I must now content myself by saying that personally I do not consider these long lace pantaloons suitable for street wear. It has been said that they are intended to give the effect of a lace petticoat and they are arranged as trousers merely to do away with unnecessary material under a tight skirt. As a comment on this explanation I ask to be allowed to use a single, rather rude word: "Rosh!"

In the full length sketch which I am sending to THE SUN this week I have indicated rather successful chiffon pantaloons which were made to match the costume with which they were worn. The model which I have sketched shows one of the new flounced skirts, the flounces being shaped and graduated in width. The color scheme exploited in this dress was very satisfactory.

The materials were supple taffeta and printed gauze. The taffeta was in a rich shade of navy blue and the gauze in a subtle tone of petunia, with dark blue roses scattered over its surface. The silk corsage was particularly well arranged. Cut on generous lines, it fell in graceful folds over the bust and

bloused over the waist band, which was composed of navy blue mirror velvet. This band was fastened in front with a beautiful enamel ornament which had been specially made for the costume. This ornament repeated all the tones of blue and petunia shown in this dress.

The sleeves of this model were worthy of attention. They were rather short and quite wide, with curious cuffs ending in points which turned back from the arms. The chemise, finished with a high Medici collar, was in fine white cambric.

The hat shown in this sketch is a Carlier model and a very successful one. The shape was covered with black silk beaver and the high wings were in white and a faded shade of crushed strawbery which had a tinge of petunia in it.

Flounced skirts, of which I spoke at some length in a recent article, are becoming more and more fashionable. Many of the latest models show a number of gathered flounces in the 1830 style; others have skirts covered with shaped rills, as shown in my drawing. In almost all cases the flounces are wider at the waist than at the hem.

For these flounced dresses, which are especially suitable for reception and for restaurant wear, shot taffeta is a favorite material. Indeed taffeta may be said to be the leading favorite of the season except for tailored suits. The Parisiennes were not willing to accept another year of taffeta coats and skirts, and so it has happened that this partic-

ular silk is now being used in its right place; that is to say in connection with costumes of a dressy order.

One of the new shot taffetas shows copper lights on a pale green ground, and this silk is covered with fine hair stripes in black. I have seen this taffeta combined with fine black chintilly in a highly successful visiting dress. The corsage was very full and bunched and it was confined at the waist by a folded sash of leaf green crepe de chine, which had embroideries in jet and copper on its ends.

Shot and striped silks are being successfully combined by the leading dressmakers, and in almost every case the stripes are so fine that at a little distance they are invisible. Shot taffeta with printed designs on its surface is another popular material in the Rue de la Paix.

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Flounced Skirts More and More Popular... Taffeta the Favorite Material of the Season

all white gloves for evening, and for afternoon biscuit color in long and short gloves. But in either silk or kid the effort is no longer to match tints to costumes, but to seek a contrast, with due regard for harmony. If gray gloves are chosen and there is gray elsewhere in the toilette it is absolutely necessary to have them of one tone. Grays which do not harmonize should not be worn together.

Twelve button gloves are generally used with three-quarter length, sleeve and sixteen button gloves are intended for any sleeve cut just above the elbow, permitting a little fullness on the arm, while twenty and twenty-four button gloves are correct for full dress. At the moment the sixteen button length leads for afternoon wear; for day wear, two clasp gloves are the mode.

Clasps, by the way, are being greatly used on long gloves, for they have proved much more convenient than the button. Buttons have a way of tearing out the buttonholes as well as flying off at critical moments. On evening gloves the clasps are properly three in number. Four are not considered to be good form, and two proved a failure because the opening they made at the wrist was too small for comfort.

Washable Cape gloves are shown this spring and are to be had in tan and buff. Chamouette gloves are in demand as usual and in kid glove is the height of mode. Suede has not been worn for two years in America, though Paris has used it right along. There is no material in which the hand looks better than in suede, and women should hope that it will come again into vogue with the turn of fashion's wheel.

Among novelties shown this season are white gloves with feather stitched backs to match any costume. For bridesmaids there are white gloves embroidered with designs of small flowers and an outline of color to form a bracelet. In some of these the embroidery is in soft green and white, suggesting the lily of the valley, that is especially bridelike. For the bride herself plain white gloves with all white stitching are the rule.

The picot edge, or top, which was introduced last autumn, had no very prominent place and soon disappeared entirely. All gloves are now cut straight at the top.

A secret few women seem to know concerning the arm top of long gloves is that a small piece of silk elastic lightly stitched or caught just around the inner side of the top will keep the gloves from slipping or bagging after it has been cleaned and will also aid in giving that chic appearance possessed by the up to date woman. This is an item equally applicable to silk gloves as to those of kid.

## OPEN AIR CURE IN A GARDEN.

"N"o more office work for six months and every hour you possibly can be outdoors," was the doctor's ultimatum to a young woman who needs to earn money.

She was in despair till a happy thought solved the difficulty. She is now killing two birds with one stone in the most energetic manner. She is out all day from early morn to dewy eve, and is earning money in the process.

She lives in a suburb and for years has made a vision of loveliness out of the little home garden. She has had no training in gardening, knows nothing about it scientifically. She has simply applied common sense and a charming individuality to the job and has taken lessons learned from experience to heart.

"I wish you'd let me take care of your garden this summer," she exclaimed to a neighbor who neglects her garden through lack of interest in that sort of thing. "I'll make it just as pretty as you say mine is. I'll have so much time on my hands, for my garden will not give me enough to do—and I must be outdoors a lot."

"I will if you'll do it on a professional basis," announced the neighbor. "I'm not willing to have you do all that work for nothing. And, by the way, why don't you see if you can't get some other gardens to take care of? I am sure there are plenty of people like myself who want a pretty garden and haven't one simply because they are not interested in the process of making one or they have really not the time or the special taste for it. I'll speak about your plan among my friends, and you ask your other friends to do the same."

That was how her garden tending business started. She is already six to care for. They are little gardens and she will do all the work herself. If she gets more to care for she will have an assistant. All people ask of her is to make their gardens as attractive as her own. She knows how to give the home touch to a garden. She is now busy clearing them up of winter's debris, preparing the way for planting and pruning. She has appropriate clothes and shoes for her work, solid, comfortable things.

All perfectionism is taken away from the duty of keeping out in the open air. She is so interested in her work that the days pass pleasantly. And the worry of not making money is lifted from her.

## FISH GOOD AND PLENTY.

MAY and June are the fisherman's best months and the fish market is at its height. Ages, mull, muskellunge, pike, Kennebec salmon, sheepshead, prawns and porgies are now to be had.

The service of some of the smaller fishes for breakfast is a pleasant spring innovation, although there are usually two strong objections. One of these comes from the cook, who finds the preparation of fish a more troublesome task than cooking chops or steaks or the inevitable breakfast egg. The other protest is from the masculine members of the family, who rarely like fish on the home table.

For breakfast, however, nothing is better than the service of any of the easily prepared fishes, such as porgie, perch, flounders and bass. The last of these is always best split and broiled with bacon. The others seem made to fry brown and crisp.

Care must be taken to keep the fish perfect in shape, and it should be well



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drained from all fat, garnished with lemon and parsley and sent to the table on a hot platter. Sauce of any kind served with fish should go to the table in a separate bowl always. Broken, burned or imperfectly browned fish ought not to be permitted to come from the kitchen. It is always the result of careless handling, a bad fire or too much haste in the process.

In frying fish the fat should be very good and fresh and plentifully deep in a large pan, which must be protected with an asbestos cover if a gas range is used. In broiling also care must be taken, as delicate fish will dry up or burn in a very short time.

A great many persons like fried fish, breaded, which of course makes it crispier and browner. For this process the fish, after careful cleaning, washing and drying, is dipped in milk and then in flour before being placed in the hot fat. Another way is to take the fish, fresh and clean from the drying towel, and dip it in beaten egg, then in bread crumbs. With whitebait and other small fish dip them in milk, then in flour mixed with powdered crackers. This process of breading will be found a help for cooks who cannot accomplish the browning and crisping of fish easily, but it is an additional trouble of course.

The fresh young salmon that comes to market at this time of year from the Maine rivers is very fine. To boil it after the famous Filippine recipe take a piece midway between the tail and head and put it in a fish kettle well covered with salted cold water. Add a medium sized sliced onion, half a wingglass of white vinegar, eight peppers, two cloves and two parsley roots. Set the kettle on a brisk fire. Five minutes after the water boils the fish will be sufficiently cooked. Remove it and drain well, dress on a hot dish with a folded napkin under it. Decorate with fresh parsley or watercresses and serve a sauce in a separate dish.

New potatoes boiled, peeled and powdered with finely minced chives are very good with this fish. A Hollandaise sauce is excellent and a sauce of oysters also goes well with it. Cold it is almost better than when warm.

Broiled salmon steak is perfection when it is kept well buttered and protected from drying out. Have the steaks cut rather thick, wash and dry them well, dredge lightly with flour and broil when possible on an old fashioned gridiron over hot coals. When the gas broiler is used rub in a little butter with the flour and turn frequently in the gravy until done. Serve on a hot plate with pepper and salt.

To bake salmon, rub it with pepper, salt, cayenne and powdered onion. Lay the fish over a grating set in the oven pan and roast or bake it, basting it freely with butter and its own gravy. The great risk in cooking salmon is letting it dry. If it shows signs of browning too quickly, a sheet of white paper can be placed over it. When it is done place it on a hot dish and cover.

Then make a sauce in this manner: Add a sauce in this manner: Add the cooking pan, add hot water thickened with flour, well blended first in cold water. Then add a small coffee cup of tomato sauce, strained, the juice of a lemon and a glass of sherry. Boil this

up and serve in a sauce boat. Garnish the fish with bunches of parsley, carrot tops and firm squares of currant jelly.

Pickled salmon was a favorite dish for the diners of the past. The fish was so good as they are today. The fish is cut up and boiled as for the table. The fish is drained, wiped dry and put in a place until the morning.

Make a pickle preparation of the quarts of vinegar, a dozen blades of mace, a dozen white peppers, a dozen cloves, two teaspoonfuls of mace, mustard, three tablespoonfuls of whole sugar and a pint of the fish liquor. Boil up well and skim, without removing the spices. Set this liquor aside in a earthen jar closely covered. In the morning boil it once again.

Have ready the cooked salmon and cut in pieces about an inch square. Then drop them in the kettle and boil up once. Have ready a salt glaze jars such as are used for pickles and pack the salmon closely in the boiling delicately. Then pour the pickle over the salmon till the jars are quite full, screw on the tops tightly and set them away in a dark cool place. This is a recipe tried often and valued for by Marion Harland.

The home preparation of pickled salmon will be found to be a very expensive by far than the store-bought and it is always more delicate in flavor when the new spring salmon is used.

Travels are better now than at any other time and should be used for business and for pleasure. There are many of the many delirious diseases that are killed by the average hotel and restaurant.

With fish just at this time the beautiful green salads can be served with dandelion and the field salad which with copiously sliced French beans constitute a delicious food and a tonic. The salads should be served with a heart with a wooden egg and well rolled in the dressing before serving.

## FARMERS' STEP SYSTEM

Curious Feature of the Settlement of Minnesota.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., May 8.—The migration Commissioner Fred B. Seltman concludes from the figures of the sales of farms that Minnesota is being settled by what has become known as the "step system." He estimates that at least 1,000 new families in Minnesota today than a year ago. As most of the farmers are men with families, he estimates that fully 25,000 persons have been added to the rural population in the past year.

With the data before him Mr. Seltman said he felt justified in calling the "step system" a curious feature of the settlement of Minnesota. He said that the farmers who purchased land through the "step system" were from Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and South Dakota.

A significant feature of the "step system," says Mr. Seltman, is that the farmers who received the largest number of grants. This clearly indicates that the "step system" is being used by the Iowa and Illinois farmers who have the \$50 and \$100 lands and who are moving further north and west to the cheaper lands of northern Minnesota.